Open roundtable: European perspectives on local police governance

Many European police services have recently gone through processes of reform, but to varying degrees, with diverse approaches to local governance, and in the context of distinct landscapes of local administration. There is scope for both academic comparative research on local police governance throughout Europe, as well as more practice-oriented lesson-learning from such work. This roundtable brings together academics working on governance issues from a range of European states and sub-state polities, reflecting a diversity of local government and police structures, designs and histories. Key themes to be explored include:

• The context of recent reform processes – what were previous arrangements, what has changed, how does this relate to existing or evolving frameworks of local government?
• How (and by whom) the local governance dimension was articulated in the policy formation process
• How local governance is articulated in law (or not), and how it has been negotiated in practice through processes of implementation
• Whether there is a continued articulation of a local governance dimension in policy debate and media engagement around policing.

Contributors: Vicky Conway (Ireland); Jarmo Houtsonen (Finland); Stuart Lister (England); Christian Mouhanna (France); Paul Ponsaers (Belgium); and Alistair Henry, Ali Malik and Andy Aydin-Aitchison (Scotland).